

January/February 2009 *News to Use*

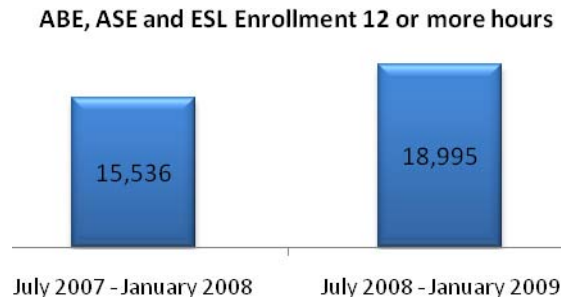
Assessment Policy Frequently Asked Questions

In order to assist you with understanding the new assessment policy, KYAE has issued [Frequently Asked Questions](#). If you have additional questions on the new assessment policy, please contact David Walters at David.Walters@ky.gov.

Analysis of Mid-Year Data for FY 2007-08 and 2008-09

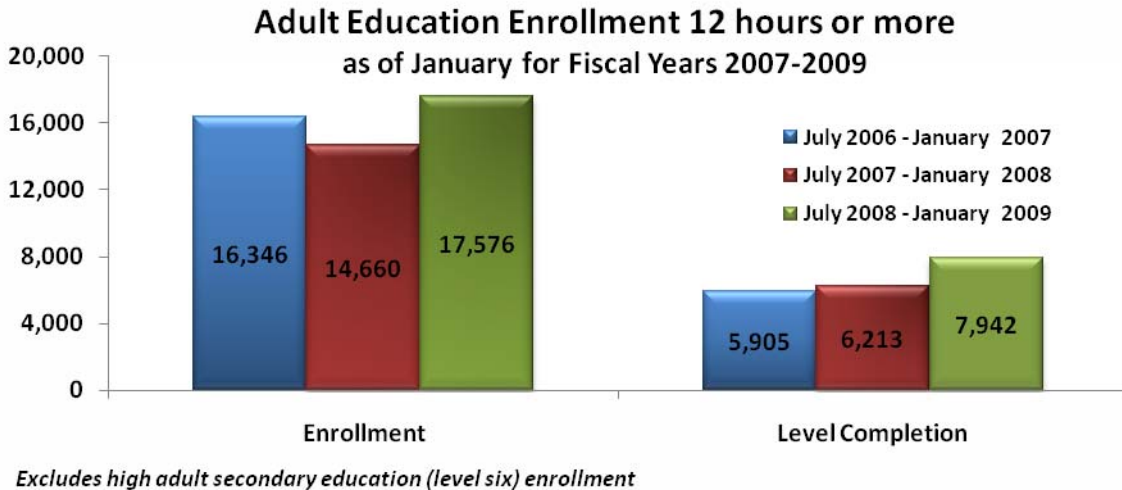
The following data analysis of enrollment data for students with 12 or more attendance hours for the two time periods July 2007-early January 2008 and July 2008-early January 2009 is a good indicator of your hard work and commitment to adult education. A preliminary examination of the data as of January indicates an increase in the number of enrollments and level completions as compared to this time last year.

- 22% increase in enrollments from this time last year



- 45% of enrolled students have made a level completion (7,942/17,576) as of January 2008 as compared to 42% of enrolled students at this time last year had made level completions (6,213/14,660).

While there is a 22% increase in enrollment (includes high ASE) and a 28% increase in level completions (does not include high ASE) from this time last fiscal year, there is still a lot of work to accomplish during this year which is the first year under the full implementation of the framework.



An analysis of the performance measures by educational functioning level indicates that as a state we are currently performing better than we were at this time last year. It is important to note that five of the eleven educational functioning levels in the table below have the same or lower percentages than last fiscal year (indicated by blue font). The levels with lower performance percentages for fiscal year 2008-09 are: beginning ABE literacy, beginning ABE, low intermediate ESL, high intermediate ESL and advanced ESL.

Also indicated in the table below, is that the percentage of students making a level completion as of early January 2009 is higher for each of the ABE and ASE levels than this time last fiscal year. Of the six ESL educational functioning levels indicated in the table, the state performance is higher in three of the levels as compared to this time last year (high beginning ESL, high intermediate ESL and advanced ESL).

| Educational Functioning Level | FY 2007-08 as of January 2008 | | FY 2008-09 as of January 2009 | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| | Goal | Percentage Met Goal | Goal | Percentage Met Goal |
| Beginning ABE Literacy | 54% | 39% | 54% | 46% |
| Beginning ABE | 51% | 39% | 50% | 43% |
| Low Intermediate ABE | 53% | 41% | 54% | 46% |
| High Intermediate ABE | 48% | 44% | 50% | 46% |

| | | | | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Low Adult Secondary | 51% | 49% | 55% | 50% |
| High Adult Secondary | | | | 0% |
| Beginning Literacy ESL | 38% | 33% | 43% | 32% |
| Low Beginning ESL | 44% | 52% | 53% | 34% |
| High Beginning ESL | 44% | 40% | 49% | 44% |
| Low Intermediate ESL | 58% | 44% | 47% | 38% |
| High Intermediate ESL | 57% | 38% | 46% | 44% |
| Advanced ESL | 44% | 24% | 34% | 30% |

Currently, the number of GEDs® awarded is 4,696, a decrease of 12% over this time last year. Although, last year we made progress towards meeting our statewide goal, we must continue climbing toward our statewide goal of 10,939 this fiscal year.

NAAL County and State Literacy Levels

A national assessment of adult literacy released recently shows that literacy levels of Kentucky adults have improved while nationwide levels have held steady.

The study, from the National Center for Education Statistics, is the most comprehensive measure of adult literacy since 1992.

The National Assessment of Adult Literacy: Indirect County and State Estimates of the Percentage of Adults at the Lowest Literacy Level for 1992 and 2003 provides estimates on the percentage of adults - for all states and counties in the U.S. - who lack basic prose literacy skills. The study is based on a survey of 19,000 Americans age 16 and older, given in 1992 and 2003. Census data also was used to calculate estimates at the state and county level.

According to the study, the percent of Kentucky population lacking basic prose literacy skills decreased seven percentage points from 19 percent in 1992 to 12 percent in 2003.

Robert L. King, president of the Council on Postsecondary Education, said the study provides encouraging news. "This is a very favorable finding that confirms the progress of Kentucky's efforts. However, much work remains to be done."

In 2003, 21 other states had a higher percent of population lacking basic prose literacy skills than Kentucky; compared to five states in 1992. Prose literacy is defined by reading materials arranged in sentences and paragraphs. Examples of prose literacy include newspaper articles, editorials and brochures.

For a full copy of the study, visit the NCES Web site at <http://nces.ed.gov>.

Regional Meetings

Coming soon!! KYAE will be hosting regional meetings in mid to late spring - dates, times and locations will be forthcoming.

GED Updates

Inmates in GED® Classes

If your program is offering instruction at a local jail, please make sure to check the educational background of the inmate before admittance to GED classes. Inmates should be asked if they have ever taken the GED Tests in any state or the military. Emphasize that any current scores earned will be nullified when a cross match of the database is done and the Department of Corrections will be notified if it is determined that inmate already has a GED credential.

Inactivity in GED123.org

If a student creates a record in GED123.org and completes the demographic form but does not take the GED Tests, the record is retained for 18 months before being deleted. If the student begins but does not complete the registration process on GED123.org, the record will be deleted in 30 days.

OPT Testing for the Option Program and Department for Juvenile Justice Students

A presentation on OPT Testing for GED Secondary Students (Option Program) and OPT Testing for Department of Juvenile Justice students is now posted on the [KYAE Web site](#). The presentation is narrated by B.J. Helton and should be reviewed by local program staff to understand the differences in process for

these students. A similar presentation is available on the Kentucky Department of Education Web site for school district staff offering the Option Program and on the Department of Juvenile Justice Web site for their staff.

State Specific Questions on Demographic Form

Students completing the Demographic Form on GED123.org, have state specific questions available. When the scannable demographic form is printed to be completed by the student, it does not have state specific questions. Only students in restricted facilities without GED123.org access need a copy of the state specific questions. The questions are available on the [KYAE Web site](#).

Black History Month and KET

You don't have to look far to find great resources for major black writers—there's a wealth of material in LiteracyLink's GED and Pre-GED Connection. The list will show you where to find works by or about some of America's top writers. GED Connection uses outstanding individuals from many cultures working in many fields to reach and engage students through all five content areas.

Newspaper in Education Update

In 2009 your *Herald-Leader* Newspaper in Education program is providing new content available daily for students and teachers. NIE is providing turnkey, easy-to-use materials for adult education students. Every activity directs students to the *Herald-Leader* eEDITION. Go to www.nieconnects.com and start clicking on the links and see how it will motivate students to want to learn and come back for more.

Come back daily for the "[Word of the Day](#)" and also check each day for our new "[Quote of the Day](#)." Check back weekly for Video News and more.

Also, starting in January 2009, the Lexington *Herald-Leader* will award a \$50 gift card to the program with the highest usage of the eEDITION. If you need to check on your username and password, please contact Jennifer Royse at jroyse1@herald-leader.com. The winning program will be contacted at the beginning of the next month.

There is a Web conference scheduled for March 20th from 10:30am-12pm to help you integrate the eEDITION into your lessons. For more information or to enroll, please check the calendar in [PDtrack](#).

Mileage Rate

The mileage reimbursement rate for state travel is 37 cents per mile for January 1 – March 31, 2009. More information about travel rates is available by [clicking here](#).